



September 26, 2006

Chairman Tom Coburn, MD  
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management  
Attention: Anna Shopen  
439 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20510

RE: University of Utah Response to Letter Dated July 27, 2006

Dear Senator Coburn:

As we committed to do in my letter of August 24, 2006, the University of Utah is hereby responding to your request for information dated July 27, 2006. Again, let me state that the University of Utah appreciates your hard work and diligence to protect taxpayer dollars. We, like you, are committed to the concept of financial integrity and responsibility and, as a consequence, carefully manage the federal funds that are provided to the University of Utah.

As I explained in my previous letter to you, the University of Utah is a Research I University, a ranking attained by only 2 percent of colleges and universities in the country. We have achieved this ranking as the direct result of our outstanding research and the many groundbreaking discoveries from that research. Those discoveries have led to life saving treatments and cures, new commercial products, startup companies, and high salaried jobs. Although the University of Utah collects research funding from many sources, the federal government has been, and continues to be a primary and essential partner in these important research endeavors. Unfortunately for the University of Utah and for research as a whole, federal research dollars have become harder and harder to come by with the passing years.

Attached to this letter is a report generated by the University's Office of Sponsored Projects ("UOSP"). This report measures all of the federal contracts and grants received by the University for fiscal years 2000-2006 and for the month of July in FY07. The report also identifies the total number and dollar amount of awards granted by each Federal agency to the University. The UOSP coordinates the research contracts that come to the University and are regularly conducted within dozens of departments in the University at any given time. Each department and its personnel carrying on a research project bear the primary responsibility for gathering the data, communicating the results to the funding agency, and publishing the results of the research. No one office at the University of Utah maintains detailed data concerning the accomplishments and results from the numerous research projects. Therefore, it would extremely time consuming,

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difficult and costly to gather together the specific data that you request for each of hundreds of research projects that the University has conducted in the last five years. The data and results of the research are public and readily available through each federal funding agency.

In terms of the quality of the University's research, we believe the proof of this quality is reflected in the University's outstanding reputation as a Research I University. In our experience the federal funding agencies demand high quality research, work closely with the University's investigators to assure the quality of the research, and continue to reward the University for its quality research by funding new research projects. The University of Utah has a policy on research misconduct which governs all research conducted at the University including federal and non-federal projects. The University monitors and enforces its research misconduct policy.

We hope that this letter and the attached document are helpful to you in your efforts to better understand the important partnership between the federal government and the research community.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Wirthlin", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kim Wirthlin

Enclosure